



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

MAY 21 2010

Ms. Nancy Rose
Forest Supervisor
Cibola National Forest Supervisor's Office
2113 Osuna Road, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001

Dear Ms. Rose:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the McKinley County Easement-Forest Roads, 191 and 191D located within the Cibola National Forest, McKinley County, New Mexico.

The Cibola National Forest proposes to grant an easement to McKinley County for access across Forest Roads 191 and 191D and reassign an existing easement to the Forest Service across private lands. The granting of the right-of-way would allow the county to upgrade FR 191D and take over the maintenance of FR 191, a quarter mile section from State Road 400 to FR 191D. The upgrade would make a 2.78 mile section of this portion of FR 191D an all-weather road.

The DEIS discusses two alternatives in detail, the no action and the proposed action. The proposed action provides for McKinley County to upgrade FR 191D to County "B-2" type road standards, with an aggregate surface in place of a paved road. An upgrade would make FR 191D an all-weather road but maintain it as a rural road. The proposed action is the preferred alternative.

EPA rates the DEIS as "LO", i.e., EPA has a "Lack of Objections" to the proposed action described in the DEIS. Our rating of this DEIS will be published in the Federal Register according to our responsibility under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal actions. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Jansky of my staff at (214) 665-7451 or by e-mail at jansky.michael@epa.gov.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review the DEIS. Please send our office two copies of the Final EIS when it is sent to the Office of Federal Activities, EPA (Mail Code 2252A), Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.

Sincerely yours,

Cathy Gilmore, Chief
Office of Planning
and Coordination 6ENXP